

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 20 and 30, leaves claims 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, 17-19, 21-27, 29 and 31 unchanged, cancels claim 28, and adds new claims 32-41. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16-23, 25-27 and 29-41.

Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16-23 and 25-31 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in the Office Action. As indicated above, claim 28 was canceled. Therefore, this objection with respect to claim 28 is rendered moot. Amendments were made to the remaining claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16-23, 25-27 and 29-31 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection with respect to claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16-23, 25-27 and 29-31 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 20-23 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 20-23 and 30 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 20-23 and 30 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 20-23 and 30 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14 and 16-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Allard (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,946).

Applicants note that the Examiner did not reject claims 25-31 based on prior art. Thus, amending claims 25-31 and the claims from which claims 25-31 so as to overcome the above described objections to informalities and rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph causes claims 25-31 to each contain allowable subject matter.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application and quickly place the present application in condition for allowance, the allowed subject matter of claim 28 which depended from claim 1 was inserted in each of the independent claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 20. It is noted that each of claims 7, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 20 recite features similar to those recited in claim 1. Therefore, each of independent claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 20 being that they each now include allowable subject matter are now allowable. Further, each of the claims which dependent from claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16 and 20, namely claims 3, 6-9, 14, 17-19, 21-23 and 25-31 are also in condition for allowance being that they depend from an allowable base claim.

Therefore, with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14 and 16-23 under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Allard, Application submit that this rejection is now rendered moot being that said claims were amended so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The present Amendment also adds new claims 32-41. New claims 32-41 are also allowable over the prior art of record being that new claims 32-36 was rewritten versions of claims 25, 26, 27, 29 and 31 respectively which contain allowable subject matter. Thus, new claims 32-36 are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Further, the present Amendment adds new claims 37-41. New claims 37-41 were written to variously depend from claim 1, which as indicated above is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, new claims 37-41 are also in condition for allowance being that they depend from an allowable base claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16-23, 25-27 and 29-41 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, 14, 16-23, 25-27 and 29-41 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.31833CC5).

Respectfully submitted,

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